

MEMORANDUM

4094

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIALINFORMATION

23 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM:

A. W. MARSHALL *AWM*

SUBJECT:

Discussion with William Colby, Friday  
20 July 1973

In a recent discussion Colby indicated that his position with respect to Symington's questions concerning the NSCID's and CIA involvement in Laos will be:

-- The NSCID's (which he will show to Symington et al) have little in them that bears upon the CIA operation in Laos.

-- The basis of the CIA involvement in Laos resides in the basic legislation which states that the CIA is "to perform such other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the National Security Council may from time to time direct;" which has always been interpreted to include covert operations. Selected members of the Congress have known of these operations for the past several decades.

-- It would be unwise to entirely rule out such operations in the future. (Colby will try, through the use of specific scenarios, to pose to Symington likely situations in which awkward choices would arise between sending the Marines or authorizing a CIA covert operation.)

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI/CDF per  
C05141331CONFIDENTIAL - GDS

CC: John Lehman